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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/573,627

03/28/2006

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08/03/2007

EXAMINER

DIAO, M BAYE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2838

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/03/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/573,627	ROEHM ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	M'baye Diao	2838	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on 03/28/2006 has been considered and placed of record. An initialed copy is attached herewith.

### ***Specification***

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:  
The word " ten compartments 93 " should read -- ten compartments 95 -- (page 12, line 6).

Appropriate correction is required.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of minor informalities.  
The word " battery (4) " should read -- battery (40) -- (abstract). Correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The word " battery (4) " should read -- battery (40) --.

6. Claim 1 is also objected because of the following informalities:

The limitation " a chronologically undefined way " is not clear as to whether it is done in time or it means something else.

The limitation " particularly in intervals between use " is not understood as to what it means.

7. Claim 5 is objected to because the limitation "less than 90° to the vertical ", the word "vertical " lacks antecedent basis.

8. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities:

The word " less than 90Θ " should read -- less than 90° --.

9. Claim 7 is objected to because the limitation "standing securely, on a flat and in particular horizontal storage shelf, without having to be secured and firmly held when the battery-operated screwdriver (10) is removed " is not understood as to what is meant by "particular horizontal storage ".

10. Claim 8 is objected to because the limitation " in particular detachably " is not understood as to what is meant by " in particular detachably ".

11. Claim 9 is objected to because the limitation "particularly in an overlockable fashion " is not understood as to what is meant by "particularly in an overlockable fashion ".

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**14. Claims 1 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nottingham, US 2003/0070511 in view of Kilmer et al., (Kilmer) US PAT 4,751,452.**

As per claim 1, Nottingham et al. disclose (pages 2-3, [0027]-[0034]) and show in Figs. 1-4:

a battery-operated screwdriver (10), having a housing (12, 16) with a handle (14), in particular bent at an angle like a pistol grip (see Fig. 2), with a battery (20), characterized in that the battery-operated screwdriver (10) has a battery (20).

Although Nottingham discloses a battery (20), Nottingham differs from the claimed invention because he does not specifically disclose the battery (20) being rechargeable and being designed as a lithium ion cell and can be placed in a chronologically undefined way, particularly in intervals between uses, on a charger shell (22), and the charging mode can be produced automatically; and that the charger shell (22) is intended as a holder for storing tool inserts, particularly screwdriver bits, of the battery-operated screwdriver (10) in captive fashion.

Kilmer et al., disclose (col. 2, lines 37+; cols.3-4) and show in Figs. 1, 4, 7 & 8 a battery operated portable wire wrapping device (10) having a either a rechargeable or

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non rechargeable battery pack (32) having electrical connections (42) and (44) to mate with electrical connections (22) and (24) mounted in casing (20) of portable power tool (10) which is designed as a lithium ion cell (Li ion cell).

Kilmer also discloses that when it is desirable to recharge the battery pack (32), battery pack (32) is removed from the power tool casing (20)(housing) and then placed on a charger (50) (see Fig. 7).

Kilmer is evidence that ordinary workers in the art would find a reason, suggestion or motivation to use a rechargeable battery as a lithium ion cell that can be placed in a chronologically undefined way, particularly in intervals between uses, on a charger shell.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a rechargeable battery such as a lithium ion cell or the like so as to enable utilization of both rechargeable and non rechargeable batteries while preventing the recharging of non-rechargeable batteries by use of a battery charger as per the teachings of Kilmer, (col. 1, lines 45-50).

Accordingly, claim 1 would have been obvious.

As per claims 2-4, Nottingham differs from the claimed invention because he does not specifically disclose the battery-operated screwdriver, characterized in that the charge contact tongues protrude outward through lateral slots in the lower end of the handle on both sides of the parting plane on the side of the internal angle and lock in the charging mode onto charge contacts of the charger shell, without requiring that separate cords or coupling plugs be actuated.

Kilmer et al. disclose (col. 2, lines 48+) and show in Figs 1 & 2 a portable tool (10) comprising a housing (20), which encloses both motor (12) section and power transmission section (18). The electrical connections (22) and (24) from electric motor (12) are mounted at the bottom (26) of housing (20) in opening (28) in which is mounted a battery pack (32) by two ear members (34) and (36) which fit into compatible slots (38) and (40) within opening (28). When engaged in opening (28), battery pack (32) has two electrical connections (42) and (44) which are placed into physical contact with the two compatible electrical connections (22) and (24) in bottom (26) of portable power tool (10). Kilmer further discloses (col. 3, lines 43+) and shows in Figs. 3 - 6, the battery pack (32) being constructed with two halves (70) and (72) which allows the standard cell (48) (rechargeable) to be easily removed and replaced. Latches (74) and (76) connect the two halves (70 and 72) at top (54) and bottom (78).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the casing of the battery pack taught by Kilmer into the battery-powered screwdriver of Nottingham for advantages of serving as both handle and providing power to the motor of the portable power tool (col. 1, lines 59+), and ease of operation by eliminating the cumbersome task of removing a screw or a nut to gain access to the batteries, (col. 3, lines 54-56) as per the teachings of Kilmer.

Accordingly, claims 2- 4 would have been obvious.

As per claim 5, Nottingham discloses (page 2,[0027]) and shows in Fig. 1 that the battery-operated screwdriver (10) as recited in claim 1, characterized in that the charger shell (charger shell being part of the handle (14)) has embedding means

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(19) on its top side for receiving the battery (20). Nottingham differs from the claimed invention because he does not disclose the charger shell (which is also the handle (14)) having embedding means on its top surface for receiving the battery-operated screwdriver which correspond to a copy of its internal angle outer surfaces that are enclosed by the handle and the motor housing and the gearbox; and that at least one of the embedding means extends at an angle of less than  $90^\circ$  to the vertical.

Kilmer discloses ( ) and shows in Figs. 8 – 10, a charger shell (60) having embedding means (32', 62, 64) on its top surface (see Fig. 8) for receiving the portable power tool (10) (col. 2, lines 36+; col. 3, lines 62+; col. 4) which correspond to a copy of its internal angle outer surfaces that are enclosed by the handle (32') (considering the axis of (10) to be the vertical) and the motor housing (casing (20)) and the gear box (18); and that at least one of the embedding means (32') extends at an angle of less than  $90^\circ$  to the vertical (see Figure 1 below).

As per claim 6, Kilmer further discloses (col. 2, lines 37+; col. 3, lines 62+) and shows in Figs. 1-2 & 8-10, the portable power tool (10) having the handle (32) or (32') (see col. 1, lines 59-60) is used by inserting the battery pack (32) in opening (28) in casing (20) of the portable power tool (10) by twisting motion so as to cause the ears (34) and (36) to engage in slots (38) and (40). The power tool (10) has a trigger switch (30) which acts as an ON/OFF button not into the embedding means (32, 62, 64) but adjacent to them (see Fig. 1). Kilmer further discloses (see Figs. 1 & 8) the battery and handle (32) protruding from the charger shell (62) and dips only minimally (see Fig. 8



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and the thickness of charger shell (60) compared to the height of the battery pack and handle (32)) into the embedding means.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made since the Applicant has no support data, which convinces that the particular claimed configuration is significant or is anything more than one of numerous configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing mating surfaces. In re Dailey 149 USPQ 47, 50 (CCPA 1966). See also Glue Co. v. Upton 97 US 3,24 (USSC 1878).

Accordingly, claim 6 would have been obvious.

15. As per claim 7, Nottingham differs from the claimed invention because he does not specifically disclose that the charger shell can be placed, standing securely, on a flat and in particular horizontal storage shelf, without having to be secured and firmly held when the battery-operated screwdriver is removed.

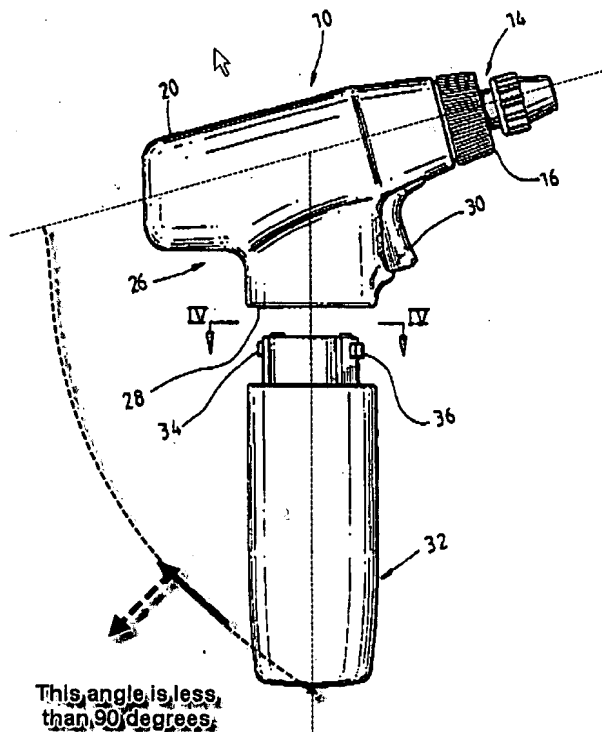
16. Kilmer does not specifically disclose (see Figs. 1 & 8; col. 3, lines 61+) that the charger shell (60)(see Fig. 8) can be placed, standing securely on a flat and in particular horizontal storage shelf without having to be secured and firmly held when the power tool is removed, it is obvious that based on its shape (see Fig. 8) and since only twisting is involved [positioning the battery of the portable power tool, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to position the battery in to the charger shell without having to resort to firmly holding and securing. It is also obvious that the charger shell can be placed on a horizontal storage shelf and can be

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placed standing still since the (tightening only involves twisting the battery until it locks into position as per the teachings of Kilmer, col. 3, lines 64-65.

17. Accordingly, claim 7 would have been obvious.

18.



**Fig. 1**

Accordingly, claims 5-6 would have been obvious.

19. **Claims 8 - 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nottingham, US 2003/0070511 in view of Kilmer et al., (Kilmer) US PAT 4,751,452 and further in view of Fruhm, US PAT 6,510,763.**

20. As per claims 8 - 9, Nottingham when combined with Kilmer still differs from the claimed invention because the charger shell disclosed by either one of them does not have a detachably mountable bit holder.

Frühm discloses (abstract; col. 2, lines 62+; col. 3, lines 1-6 & 24 - 54) and shows in Figs. 1 – 3, a battery powered screwdriver having an integral bit holder (12) and a bit holder compartment (28). He also discloses (col. 2, lines 62+) that when bit holder (12) is in the closed position shown in FIG. 2, segments (52) flex radially outwardly, forcing the outwardly protruding circumferential ridged portions (56) of segments (52) into snap-fit engagement within radially outwardly enlarged circumferential recess (58) provided within the central, forward face of end cap (60) to firmly retain bit holder (12) in the closed position.

Frühm is evidence that ordinary workers in the art would find a reason, suggestion or motivation to include in the charger shell of the battery-powered screwdriver a bit holder.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a bit holder in the charger shell of the battery-powered screwdriver for advantages such as, convenience and ready access to a supply of different bits, thus avoiding the need to locate and manipulate a separate bit storage container as per the teachings of Frühm, (col. 1, lines 14-19).

Accordingly, claims 8- 9 would have been obvious

**21. Claims 8 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nottingham, US 2003/0070511 in view of Bennage et al., (Bennage) US PAT 6,702,530.**

22. As per claims 8-9, Nottingham differs from the claimed invention because he does not specifically disclose the charger shell having a detachably mountable bit holder particularly for receiving a plurality of bits, which in operation can be inserted, in particular plugged in in a manner secure against relative rotation, in communication with the battery-operated screwdriver.

Bennage et al. disclose (col. 2; col. 3, lines 1 - 20) and show in Figs. 1-4 a power tool (compact power drill)(10) characterized in that it has at least one, in particular detachably, mountable bit holder (12), particularly for receiving a plurality of bits (16,18), which in operation can be inserted, in particular plugged in in a manner secure against relative rotation, in communication with the power tool (10). Bennage et al. further disclose (col. 1, lines 31-39; col. 2 lines 41+) that a hook (40) is formed on the retaining end 34, and it is the hook that applies a retaining force to the tool part (hex bit 16 or chuck key 18). This construction allows the tool part to be captured inside the recessed area (24) by the spring clip (30). When placing either the hex bit (16) or chuck key (18) into the recessed key and bit holder (12), the spring clip (30) bends so the tool part may be fitted into the recessed area (24). Once in the recessed area (24), the spring clip (30) applies force to the outside of the tool part, thereby holding it in place.

Bennage is evidence that ordinary workers in the art would find a reason, suggestion or motivation to include in the charger shell a detachable bit holder that is fitted flush into the outer contour in an overlockable fashion.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nottingham by including in the charged shell for the battery-operated screwdriver a detachably, mountable bit holder that is fitted flush into the outer contour of the charger shell in an overlockable fashion, for advantages such as adjusting the size of the mouth of the chuck key in the housing of the power tool to insert and remove drill bits, and to avoid losing the chuck key from a loose coupling, and also for advantages of storing extra bits on the power drill, as per the teachings of Bennage et al. (col. 1, lines 9-20).

Accordingly, claims 8-9 would have been obvious.

23. As per claims 10-11 & 13 - 14, Nottingham differs from the claimed invention because he does not specifically disclose the charger shell having an elongated indentation for receiving bit holder, which indentation is longer than the bit holder and which, with the bit holder inserted, forms a permanent opening for grasping from below with the finger for the sake of removing the bit holder.

Bennage et al. disclose (col. 2; col. 3, lines 1-9) that in accordance with an important aspect of the present invention and referring to the embodiment of FIG. 1, the recessed key and bit holder (12) also has a finger relief cutout or cutout portion (42) formed in connection with the recessed area (24). The finger relief cutout portion (42) is sized so accommodate at least one finger of the user. It is preferred that the finger relief cutout portion (42) be formed on the lower or bottom surface of the recessed area (24) and is in communication therewith, since the spring clip (30) is located near the top of

the recessed area. To remove the tool part from the recessed key and bit holder (12), the user simply inserts a finger in the finger relief cutout portion (42) and pulls the tool part from the power tool (10).

Bennage et al. further disclose (col. 3, lines 21-54) and show in Figs. 4-5 the housing of the power tool having input pinions (88) for the bits (16, 18) which are located extended perpendicular to the contour(head portion) of the power tool (50) as seen in Fig. 4.

Therefore it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to provide with the charger shell taught by Nottingham a housing having a recessed key and bit holder wherein the recessed key and bit holder also has a finger relief cutout or cutout portion (42) formed in connection with the recessed area (24) for advantages such as to accommodate at least one finger of the user, as per the teachings of Bennage et al. (col. 2, lines 62-63).

Accordingly, claims 10-11 & 13 -14 would have been obvious.

As per claim 11, Nottingham when modified by Bennage still differs from the claimed invention because they both do not disclose the charger shell as recited in claim 11, characterized in that the bit holder (12) is kept in the signal color red, and the charger shell (10) is kept in the color black and/or dark green and/or dark blue. Nottingham when combined with Bennage kept silent about the color of the power tool. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to make the color of the bit holder in red and that of the housing of the power

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tool in the color black and/or green and /or blue, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the color of the portable tool and since they come in different color and size, A change in shape and/or color is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Accordingly, claim 12 would have been obvious.

### **Conclusion**


24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior cited in the PTO-892 and not mentioned above disclose related apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M'baye Diao whose telephone number is 571-272-9748. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00; First Friday off;

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Karl Easthom can be reached on 571-272-1989. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M'baye Diao  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2838

M.D

  
BAO Q. VU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER